

POLITICS IN '62 AND '64.

LETTER FROM HUGH J. HASTINGS.
WHY GENERAL DIX WAS NOT NOMINATED FOR GOVERNOR INSTEAD OF MR. FENTON—WHIGS, RADICAL REPUBLICANS AND WAR DEMOCRATS—SOME POLITICAL HISTORY AS TOLD BY ONE WHO HAD A PART IN IT.

To the Editor of *The Tribune*.

Sir: Mr. Weed and Professor Clark have told how General Dix was nominated for Governor in 1872, and the late Postmaster-General King has related how General Dix *was* to be appointed by President Buchanan Secretary of the Treasury. These bits of history will be found by future historians very useful and very interesting. It is well that the men who acted history should write history. I propose, with your permission, to make a contribution in that line and to relate how narrowly the General escaped being nominated for Governor in 1864, and how it came about that Reuben E. Fenton was nominated. By way of preface, I recall the defeat of General Wadsworth and the election of Horatio Seymour for Governor in 1862. The success of the Democrats in that year was regarded in many quarters as unfortunate to the Union cause, and was glorified as a rebel victory, notwithstanding Mr. Seymour's speech two or three days before the election that he favored "a vigorous prosecution of the war." Seymour's election fell like a cold chill upon the Union Army and on every recruiting station. The Union men of the country remembered his speech at Tweed Hall in Albany, in 1861, and his success depressed every friend of the Union in the country. Wadsworth's defeat was charged to Mr. Weed and his friends. This was one of the many wicked falsehoods of the day alleged against Mr. Weed. It is due to Mr. Weed to say he never was more earnest, more active and untiring in the election of Seward at any time than he was for Jas. Wadsworth. It was because Mr. Weed's advice was not taken at the State Convention where Mr. Wadsworth was nominated that he was defeated.

The old Democratic Free Soil element, that a few years before joined with the Whigs to constitute the Republican party, was recruited by old party associates known as "War Democrats," and soon became most clamorous for office, and sought to be the dominating party of all conventions. The nomination of Mr. Wadsworth was entirely acceptable to Mr. Weed and his old Whig friends. When, however, the convention in a moment of excitement nominated Lyman Tremain for Lieutenant-Governor, who only the year before made a speech in Tweed Hall with Seymour and Thayer, that was looked upon by every friend of the Union as disloyal and treasonable, it was regarded as unwise by the sagacious men of the country. Mr. Weed remonstrated and said: "Gentlemen, you have made a mistake. How can you expect to bring out old Whigs to support this ticket with enthusiasm?" This remonstrance against the inconsiderate action of the convention after election was brought forward by his enemies as evidence of his want of good faith to Wadsworth and the Republican ticket. The Whig party then constituted eighty-five per cent of the Republican party and the fifteen per cent of old Democracy demanded about all the offices. Nothing but the devotion of the old Whigs to the cause of the Union could have induced them to support the Republican ticket that year. As it was, Seymour only carried the STATE by a majority of 10,000.

THE SITUATION IN 1864.

It is noticeable in connection with Seymour's success that the Republicans encountered defeat in the States of New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois the same year. Wadsworth's defeat was regarded as a serious set-back to the Republican party in the State. The loyal men of the country were more or less disengaged during the years of 1862 and 1863 with the prosecution of the war. The Republicans were not over-sanguine of success at the approaching election of 1864 in New-York. The candidates for Governor were not numerous, and about the only candidate who was much talked of was Reuben E. Fenton, then a member of Congress from Chautauqua, serving his fifth term. Mr. Fenton understood that Thurlow Weed, although by his conservative course he had arrayed against him the extreme radical elements of the party, was still a great power in Republican conventions. To win Weed's friends over to his side was to remove the only real obstacles in his way. Mr. Fenton was originally a Democrat before becoming a Republican, and his friends saw the importance of securing the old Whig leaders who belonged to the Weed and Seward party. With the exception of the present writer, I am of opinion that Mr. Fenton captured all the active followers of Mr. Weed, who were not long in convincing him of the "old man" that Fenton had best not run for Governor. It was arranged between Fenton, the late Alex Harvey and E. D. Webster, of Buffalo, and others, that Fenton and the "old man" should be brought together. They never had been warm friends. There long existed a coldness between them.

One morning early in August, 1864, while Mr. Weed was engaged in his usual mode of life in rooming at the Astor House, General Harvey entered, accompanied by Mr. Fenton. The reception was rather tame and cool at first, but after a brief conversation there was a change of atmosphere and the business for which Mr. Fenton called was talked over. It is sufficient to say that Mr. Weed was taken over. It is a sufficient proof to the trustees that the only candidates who was much talked of was Reuben E. Fenton, then a member of Congress from Chautauqua, serving his fifth term. Mr. Fenton understood that Thurlow Weed, although by his conservative course he had arrayed against him the extreme radical elements of the party, was still a great power in Republican conventions. To win Weed's friends over to his side was to remove the only real obstacles in his way. Mr. Fenton was originally a Democrat before becoming a Republican, and his friends saw the importance of securing the old Whig leaders who belonged to the Weed and Seward party. With the exception of the present writer, I am of opinion that Mr. Fenton captured all the active followers of Mr. Weed, who were not long in convincing him of the "old man" that Fenton had best not run for Governor. It was arranged between Fenton, the late Alex Harvey and E. D. Webster, of Buffalo, and others, that Fenton and the "old man" should be brought together. They never had been warm friends. There long existed a coldness between them.

"I do not hesitate to say that Judge Dillon owes it to himself and family to accept the offer from Columbia College. He is wearing himself out with the hardest done by any man I know. He gets only \$6,000 a year, and must pay his travelling expenses twice a year over his large circuit. His cuties at the college would be comparatively light, giving him opportunity to earn an increased revenue already assured in New-York. The trial will be in the shape of a printed book of 352 pages, and contains 472 interrogatories relating to Mr. Tilden's income from several railroad and other companies for which he acted as counsel from 1861 to 1871. It is expected that the trial will be reached in this Fall."

THE COURTS.

SHOOTING HIS CHILD WHILE INSANE.

MACER SENT TO THE BLACKWELL'S ISLAND ASYLUM.

Daniel W. Macer, indicted for murder in the first degree, was placed at the bar in the Court of General Sessions yesterday for trial. On April 24 Macer shot his daughter Mary, a child five years of age, and on April 30 she died from the effects of the wound. Ten years ago the prisoner was a sailor, and on a voyage in the ship Wave Crest, while off Santiago de Cuba, received a sunstroke. Ever since he has been considered peculiar, but was not looked upon as dangerous until March last. He had been employed as a car driver on the Third Avenue Railroad, and in December last, owing to the strike of the drivers, lost his situation. He was unable to obtain other employment, and he brooded over his misfortunes. His wife was in poor health, owing to injuries received in a railway accident. He was unable to pay his rent, and on the day of the shooting had received notice that he was to be dispossessed. For weeks the food for his family had been supplied by a charitable woman who agreed to wait for her money until he could get out.

On April 24 Macer got up about 10 o'clock, and had four breakfasts, on each occasion insisting that he had had nothing to eat for days. He was a most affectionate father and his wife, never having separated with his wife in all his life, was out of her part 10, after closing the children. The little girl was sent to a relative to kiss him "good-by" before she departed. He returned at 3 o'clock and found the children alone, the mother having gone to a neighbor's tending to be away only a few minutes. What followed was not witnessed by any of the children, and they were eager to tell it. A pistol shot was heard, and immediately afterward Mary rushed to her mother's bedchamber. Macer was arrested and in his pocket he had all known of his wife in the City Prison. Dr. Hardy testified that the mind was undoubtedly sane. He labored under the impression that the children were eudaevoring to gain admission to kill him, to kill him, and that his daughter had appeared and had told him that he wore his beads around his arm the amulet and his two companions would be killed. The jury found him guilty of manslaughter, and Judge Converse gave him his sentence on Blackwell's Island until he shall become sane, or until the further order of the Court.

THE CLYDE-LORILLARD AGREEMENT.

JACOB LOHILLARD'S ACCOUNT OF HIS RELATIONS WITH W. P. CLYDE & CO.

Judge Barrett listened yesterday, in Supreme Court, Chambers, to the motion for the appointment of a receiver for the Philadelphia and New-York Steam Navigation Company in the action begun by the Attorney-General against the company, William P. Clyde, Benjamin Betts, John A. Leslie and Amos Rogers. An adjournment had been taken from the management of the *Albany Evening Journal*, which had been conducted with such decided ability for nearly thirty-five years. And the brains of the Republican party had made him obnoxious to the Thad Stevens, Henry Winter Davis, William Cullen Bryant and Horace Greeley Radicals, opposed to Lincoln's renomination. To establish and publishing another Republican paper of Albany and to make the party more homogeneous, he retired from the management of the *Albany Evening Journal*, which he had conducted with such decided ability for nearly thirty-five years. 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